

QUARTER-MADE BY ELIZABETH KECKLEY

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HOUBAHOI TERRACE

Curios and Relics
Household Textiles
Quilt
Made by Elizabeth Keckly

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

From the files of the
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

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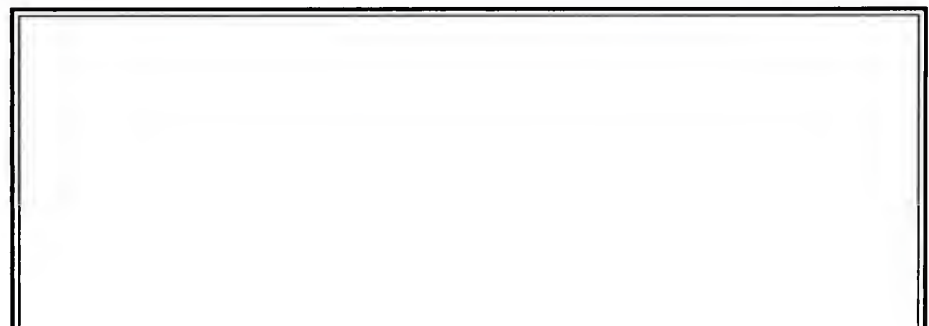
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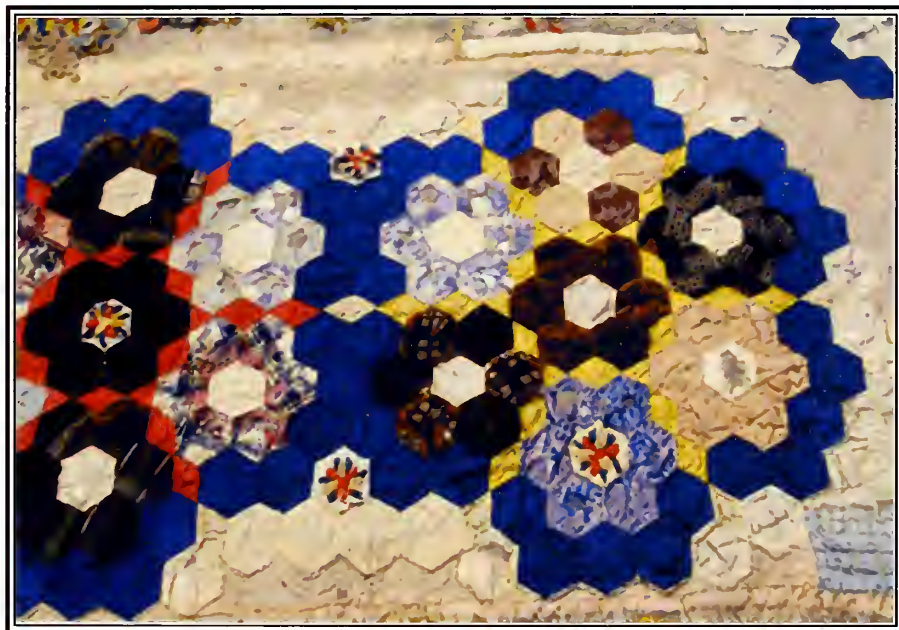
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Keckley Quilt
Elizabeth Hobbs Keckley (ca. 1818-1907), United States of America, ca. 1860s.
Gift of Ross Trump in memory of his mother, Helen Watts Trump
KSUM 1994.79.1

According to American quilt historian Ruth Findlay, this quilt was made by Elizabeth Hobbs Keckley from scraps of Mary Todd Lincoln's dresses. Mrs. Keckley, an African-American, was Mrs. Lincoln's

dressmaker and, while living in a boarding house in Washington, taught dressmaking to American-American women. She went on to teach Domestic Art in 1892 and 1893 at Wilberforce University in Ohio, the nation's oldest, private African-American university, before suffering from a stroke that ended her teacher career. Elizabeth Hobbs Keckley had previously bought her freedom with money earned by dressmaking.

For an outside link on Elizabeth Hobbs Keckley, see the Web site of the University Library at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. A digitized copy of Elizabeth Hobbs Keckley's book, *Behind the Scenes, or, Thirty years a Slave, and Four Years in the White House* (New York: G. W. Carleton & Co., Publishers, 1868), can be found on their "Documenting the American South" Web site at <http://docsouth.unc.edu/keckley/menu.html>.

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VanHorn, Cindy

From: Swearingen, John D.
Sent: Thursday, February 23, 2006 10:12 AM
To: VanHorn, Cindy; Texley, Carolyn
Subject: FW: Loan to your exhibition

Cindy and Carolyn,

Looks like we can't borrow the quilt after all. Oh well. I'd still like to see their museum and collections for possible future loans.

John

-----Original Message-----

From: Joanne Fenn [mailto:jfenn1@kent.edu]
Sent: Wednesday, February 22, 2006 4:38 PM
To: Swearingen, John D.
Cc: Jean Druesedow; Anne Bissonnette
Subject: Loan to your exhibition

Dear John,

I write to you regarding your latest request for our Keckley quilt for The Lincoln Museum's exhibition, "The Lincoln Family Album." As promised in my 2/17 email, I was able to discuss the lending of the Keckley quilt with our curator and director. A consensus has been reached regarding the condition of the quilt for loan. Unfortunately, the quilt is quite unstable and desperately needs treatment (we are estimating in the thousands of dollars) before it can be safely packed, shipped and exhibited.

We do have a professional-quality digital image of the quilt that is available (\$75.00 for a one-time use fee), if you need.

I am sorry for any inconvenience the decline of this loan may cause. Thank you so much for your interest in KSUM. Is your staff still interested in visiting the museum in April?

Kind regards,
Joanne

Joanne Fenn
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